

## Message Text

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ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 EB-11 XMB-07 AID-20 OMB-01

TRSE-00 L-03 CIAE-00 INR-11 NSAE-00 RSC-01 FRB-03

OPIC-12 DRC-01 /114 W

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R 091215Z AUG 74

FM AMEMBASSY LIBREVILLE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5666

INFO AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY YAOUNDE

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

USDOC WASHDC

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: BEXP, ETRN, GB

SUBJ: TRANSGABON RAILROAD

ABUDJAN FOR REDSO/WA

COMMERCE FOR STEPHEN M. CONGER

DEPT PASS EXIM FOR MALLOY

YAOUNDE FOR RDO

1. PRESIDENT BONGO IN AUGUST 1 RADIO INTERVIEW STATED COSTS FIRST LEG OF TRANSGABON RAILROAD HAVE PROVEN TO BE MUCH MORE THAN ESTIMATED AND THAT GOG WILL COVER THE DIFFERENCE. FYI. LOWEST BID FOR MOST EXPENSIVE CONSTRUCTION LOT 3, INCLUDING PURCHASE OF EARTH-MOVING EQUIPMENT, WAS DOLS 232 MILLION. COST ESTIMATES FOR SAME ESTABLISHED IN JULY 1973 WAS DOLS 90 MILLION (21.6 BILLION CFAF).

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2. PRESIDENT BONGO ALSO STATED CONSTRUCTION OF SECOND LEG (BOOUE-FRANCEVILLE) WILL BE WHOLLY FUNDED BY GOG

WITHOUT EXTERNAL AID.

3. COMMENT: IT HAD LONG BEEN ASSUMED HERE THAT BECAUSE OF HIGH FINANCIAL CHARGES AND GREATLY INCREASED GOVERNMENT REVENUES FROM PETROLEUM, GOG WOULD PAY FOR EXCESS COSTS OF FIRST LEG AND FOR ALL OF SECOND LEG OUT OF ITS ORDINARY REVENUES. ESTIMATED COST SECOND LEG IS DOLS 239 MILLION. BONGO'S STATEMENT CONFIRMS THIS. TOTAL OIL REVENUES FOR 1974, IF PRICE STAYS AT CURRENT HIGH LEVELS, HAVE BEEN ESTIMATED AT DOLS 310 MILLION. THUS GOG COULD APPARENTLY AFFORD TO PAY WHOPPING CONSTRUCTION COST OUT OF ORDINARY LOCALLY GENERATED REVENUES.

4. FOR THE HAGUE: REQUEST YOU PASS MESSAGE SUBSTANCE TO MR. JOSEPH MCKEE, MORRISON-KNUDSEN INTERNATIONAL, TELEPHONE (070) 24-45-12.

5. DECLAS UPON RECEIPT.  
COUNTRYMAN

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NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** PRESIDENT, CONSTRUCTION, RADIO BROADCASTING, COST ESTIMATES, RAILROADS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 09 AUG 1974  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** golinofr  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
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**Document Unique ID:** 00  
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**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
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30 JUN 2005

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**TAGS:** BEXP, ETRN, GB, (BONGO)  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
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